

House Resolution 1555

By: Representatives Smith of the 70th, Horne of the 71st, Wilkinson of the 52nd, Stephens of the 164th, Hudson of the 124th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing and commending Murray Printing; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, Murray Printing first opened its doors in Griffin, Georgia, in 1845, and
3 according to a recent inquiry by its new owner, it could be the oldest existing company in
4 Georgia; and

5 WHEREAS, a native of Scotland, Alexander G. Murray founded the company in 1845, and
6 upon his death in 1853, his son Samuel W. Murray took over the business; and

7 WHEREAS, according to accounts in old newspaper articles, during the Civil War, the
8 Yankees tore out the printing presses and scattered its type, generally ruining the store, but
9 the Murrays persevered and began again; and

10 WHEREAS, a 1946 newspaper article concerning the sale of the company stated that the
11 original 1845 type pieces were still in use and some of the old wooden cuts are around today;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, in 1881, the print shop moved from Griffin to Newnan, Georgia; and

14 WHEREAS, the business occupied two buildings in Newnan before Samuel Murray built a
15 new building for his presses in 1895 at 7-9 West Washington Street, and the company
16 remained on the second floor of this building under the stewardship of Herndon H. Murray,
17 who took over the business in 1901; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1903 and 1904, Murray Printing became a cotton tag manufacturer, the only
19 one in the South at that time according to early 20th century newspaper articles, and shortly
20 after it turned to the manufacture of hosiery and hat boxes and other types of commercial
21 printing; and

1 WHEREAS, Raleigh Arnall, a relative of Governor Ellis Arnall, purchased the business in
2 1946, and the business passed out of the Murray family's hands after 101 years of ownership;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, it was Mr. Arnall who moved Murray Printing to its current location at 7 Spring
5 Street, the site of a former hotel, in the middle 1940's, and it was at this time that the
6 company experienced its heyday, doing business with large local industries; and

7 WHEREAS, Mr. Arnall also turned the storefront into an office supply place, and when
8 Arnall finally sold the business to Mr. Charlie Smith in 1979, office supplies were still being
9 sold; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith shifted the main focus of the store back to printing as "big box"
11 stores like Kmart came to town; and

12 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith purchased the company from Mr. Arnall nearly 30 years ago, and the
13 company was briefly owned by the Madean family, but Mr. Smith bought it back; and

14 WHEREAS, Mr. Smith has recently sold the company to a younger generation, Mr. Rob
15 Brass who will rename the store Murray's Minuteman Press; and

16 WHEREAS, Murray Printing is one of the most significant business enterprises in the state
17 and is a tribute to the entrepreneurial spirit of its founders.

18 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
19 the members of this body recognize and commend Murray Printing for the valuable services
20 it has provided to the community and this state in its many years of operation.

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
22 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Mr. Charlie Smith and Mr.
23 Rob Brass.